

# WEEK 1

## Bible Study: What does it mean to be human?

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What makes you, as a human being, different from the rest of the creation. We all intuitively know that there's *something* about human beings that makes us different, more special, than the animals. But what is that something? Consider this as you read Psalm 8.

Psalm 8:5

What does it mean to be made in the image of God? What is the thing that makes human beings different than the rest of the creation?

Psalm 8:6-8

What is the unique purpose for which God has designed humans?

According to Psalm 8, what is unique about God's relationship to humans?

How do you think God defines "being human"?

## Highlights from Chapters 1 and 2

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God's purpose for our lives is to transcend our self-oriented existence and to be part of something bigger than merely our own survival and our own happiness. This is not to say that our personal happiness is not important—it is—*and* there is more, much more.

Each of us has an innate desire to live for more than ourselves—that is, to live for God's Kingdom. When our lives are connected to God's Kingdom, our lives have meaning and purpose.

We all struggle in our daily lives with settling for less, and we want to consider *how we allow this to happen*.

- We lose sight of God’s transcendent glories and focus on “near” glories.
- We are tempted and deceived by the appearance of “more” which is actually less.

We want to understand why pursuing glory that is disconnected from God leads to less and not more. We want to identify the lesser things for which we settle.

Learning to live for the glory that we were created to live for is a process, not a one-time event.

**Note:** Paul Tripp uses the phrase “our own little kingdoms” to mean “the kingdom which is *smaller* than the kingdom God created us for.” Each of us *has* a kingdom, and this is a good thing. When Jesus was talking with his disciples at the Last Supper, he said, “I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me.” (Luke 22) God created each one of us to rule over a kingdom. Thus, the battle is not “God’s kingdom vs. my kingdom” but rather, “my true and glorious kingdom vs. my false and small kingdom.”

## Questions To Consider While Reading

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1. What is one of the greatest things you have accomplished in life so far? What made it so meaningful to you?
2. What is your “boldest and most expansive dream”?
3. What is the basic lie that Evil is telling us? Why is it only a lie?
4. Why are the little moments of life so significant?

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“Evil knows that we all hunger for transcendence, so Evil’s craft is to present us with less in a way that appears to be more.”  
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5. What are some “near glories” that claimed your focus this week?
  
6. Can you think of a time when you achieved less, thinking you were gaining more?
  
7. Identify evidence of the struggle in your life to go after less as if it were more—in your times of leisure, at work, with your family, at church, etc.
  
8. How does it make you feel to know that God created you to participate in his glory?